

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Yakutat****Project Title:**

Yakutat - Public Safety Building

State Funding Requested: \$ 600,000
One-Time Need**House District: 5 - C****Brief Project Description:**

Construct a new facility for Yakutat's Police and Emergency Services.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$900,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Local Funds	\$200,000	08				
Other					\$500,000	09
Total	\$200,000				\$500,000	

*Explanation of Other Funds:**Low interest loan through the USDA.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Yakutat's Police and Emergency Services need a new facility. They are presently housed in a seventy year old quonset. The roof leaks, carbon monoxide from emergency vehicles occasionally poison personnel offices, and the electrical and heating installations are outdated and inefficient. We have to date, invested \$200,000 in foundations and utilities on a piece of property given to us by the State for use as a public safety campus. The borough needs to find and commit another \$700,000 to complete the project. Our Public Safety Administration (The Chief of Police) has evaluated grant and loan availability and has concluded that a low interest loan through the USDA is the only option presently available. Construction design is complete. It is our intention, if possible, to work loan costs into the next budget cycle and begins construction in the fall of 2008. Direct funding through local, State, or Federal sources would reduce the amount we need to borrow and move plans closer to realization.

Project Timeline:

Begin fall 2008.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City & Borough of Yakutat

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Skip Ryman, Borough Manager
Phone Number: 907-784-3323
Address: P.O. Box 160, Yakutat, AK 99689
Email: unavailable

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Location

Yakutat is located on the Gulf of Alaska, 225 miles northwest of Juneau, at the mouth of Yakutat Bay. Because it is one of the few refuges for watercraft along a very long coastline, this mild, often rainy location has a long history as a port and trading center.

History & Culture

Yakutat, meaning "the place where the canoes rest," has a cultural history that is strongly tied to the traditional Tlingit and Eyak cultures. More recent influences include Russian, English and American traders. The area's diverse cultural history has been originally traced to Eyak-speaking people from the Copper River area. Conflict with Tlingits from the south led to Tlingit settlement of the area and the expansion of the Tlingit cultural influence. In the 18th and 19th centuries, fur traders and explorers came to the region from England, France, Spain and Russia. The next major influence came at the end of the 19th century with the area's black sand beaches being mined for gold. A cannery, sawmill, store and railroad were constructed beginning in 1903 by the Stimson Lumber Co. Most residents moved to the current site of Yakutat to be closer to this cannery, which operated through 1970. During World War II, a large aviation garrison and paved runway were constructed. Troops were withdrawn after the war, but the runway is still in use. The City of Yakutat was formed in 1948 and in 1992 was combined with the Borough.

Land, Environment & Climate

The City and Borough of Yakutat encompasses 7,650.5 square miles of land and 1,808.8 square miles of water.¹ The area is characterized by a maritime climate, meaning relatively mild and often rainy weather. Yakutat receives some of the heaviest precipitation in the state, averaging 132 inches, including 219 inches of snowfall. Temperatures range from 42 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer to 17 to 39 degrees in the winter.²

Land Ownership

Land ownership in the City and Borough includes: Alaska Department of Natural Resources; Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; Yak-tat Kwaan (an ANCSA corporation); City and Borough of Yakutat; Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and private land owners.

¹ State of Alaska, DCCED, Community Database, November 2007.

² Ibid.

Population Served

In 2006, the population of the City and Borough of Yakutat was 634 individuals (DCCED, 2006). This figure is a decline from the Census 2000 figure of 808 individuals (see Table 1 for more population statistics). Of those counted in 2000, just under half, 46 percent, identified themselves as Alaska Native. Fifty percent of the population in 2000 was white, with the remaining percentages being split among the Asian, Hawaiian native

or black populations. It should be noted that Borough formed in 1992, increasing the area of the City substantially.

Gender

The population in Yakutat is slightly skewed toward a higher male population with 40.7 percent female and 59.3 percent male. This can be compared to the state as whole where the percentages are 48.3 percent and 51.7 percent, respectively.

Age

Compared with the state, Yakutat has a much higher percentage of the population in the 45-64 age group, 28.7 percent compared to 22.3 percent for the state. This is also reflected in the median age which is 37.2 for Yakutat and 32.4 for the state.

Economy

Overview

Fishing is integral to both the lifestyle and economy of Yakutat. Most Yakutat residents depend on subsistence hunting and fishing. Much of the area's economy is dependent on fishing or fish processing. In recent years, tourism based on hunting and fishing has become an increasingly important sector of the local economy.

Income and Employment

Both the per capita income and median household income are similar to the statewide income figures which are \$22,660 and \$51,571, respectively. The employment picture in Yakutat is heavily dependant on, as mentioned above, fishing, fish processing and government. The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and the services it provides to the community is another significant employer locally. In 2000, 162 residents held commercial fishing permits.

Table 1. U.S. Census Bureau Statistics, 2000	
2000	808
1990	534
1980	449
1970	190
1960	230
1950	298
1940	292
Per Capita Income	\$22,579
Median Household Income	\$46,786

Percent Below Poverty	13.5%
Percent Unemployment	7.8%
Percent of Adults Not Working	28.2%

Current Infrastructure

Yakutat is not reachable by road but receives frequent air and boat traffic. There are scheduled jet, air taxi and float plane services to Yakutat using either the float plane base, the State-owned runway, the Cape Yakataga airfield or on one of five U.S. Forest Service airstrips in the area. The Borough operates a boat harbor. A state ferry, the Kennicott, began summer service to Yakutat in 1998. Infrastructure provided in Yakutat includes water and sewer. Water is derived from wells, treated and piped to 191 homes in the community and the schools. Sewage is strained, sent to a settling chamber, chlorinated, de-chlorinated and released to sea. Refuse is collected by a commercial firm or brought to the community receiving area by private individuals. Hazardous waste is identified, separated and stored for eventual transport to appropriate treatment plants. Remaining waste is buried in accordance with a "trench and fill" operational plan. Diesel-fueled generators provide electricity for the area, run by Yakutat Power, Inc. The potential to utilize hydroelectric power is being explored in the area. The community operates a local clinic that is a qualified Emergency Care Center and Yakutat is classified as a Regional Center.

Priority 1 Alternative Energy

The following three alternative energy projects are new to Yakutat's CIP and have not been included in past listings or funding requests.

WAVE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT

Evaluate the feasibility of a wave electrical energy generation project. \$60,000.00

Provide the Village of Yakutat with a high level wave energy resource analysis to be derived from data available from NOAA wave buoys, plus from other data as is feasibly available during the course of the study period. The Study will seek to determine the potential for commercially accessible wave energy flux at the mesoscale as is relevant to augmenting the existing diesel-generated electrical supply.. The ultimate purpose of the Study is to make a recommendation to the Borough Assembly as to whether or not it is feasible for them to proceed to next steps in implementing a wave energy system. Such next steps should include the deployment of local wave monitoring buoys to explicitly measure the wave resource in areas that may be identified as opportune by the Study.

The recommendations of the study will take into account certain key elements of the current electric generation and distribution system, and expected load scenarios.

FUNDING. Partial funding for this project has been requested from the Denali Commission but another \$20,000.00 is required to review various wave energy generation systems. Future state and federal assistance will be required to implement recommendations made by the evaluation. Yakutat Power is a financially solid utility owned by the City and Borough of Yakutat. Low interest bonds and loans are also possible sources for additional funding although these too will result in increased utility costs to the consumers.

TIDAL ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT

Evaluate the feasibility of a tidal electrical energy generation project \$60,000

Provide the village of Yakutat with a high level tidal energy resource analysis to be derived from data available from existing data bases, plus from other data as is feasibly available during the course of the study period. The best sites are those with strong currents, which tend to be around headlands, between islands, or in channels, where the tidal flow is concentrated. Yakutat's Ankau tidal flow area is particularly well placed for tidal power, with many good potential sites around the coast, we feel that this natural containment area is a perfect placement to develop this technology. High currents tend to be found near land, so bringing the electricity ashore to where it is needed is not too expensive. Tidal electricity will be particularly useful for isolated, and island communities that cannot be connected to a national grid. The ultimate purpose of the Study is to make a recommendation to the Borough Assembly as to whether or not it is feasible for them to proceed to next steps in implementing a tidal energy system. Such next steps should include the deployment of local flow monitoring devices to explicitly measure the tidal resource in areas that may be identified as opportune by the Study. The recommendations of the study will take in to account certain key elements of the current electric generation and distribution system, and expected load scenarios.

FUNDING. A funding request for this project will be presented to the Denali Commission. If necessary, the Borough could match Denali and State assistance, if any, at a rate of 20%. More than 20% local participation would result in a rate increase to utility customers that many would be unable to absorb.. Future state and federal assistance will be required to implement any recommendations the study generates. Yakutat Power is a financially solid utility owned by the City and Borough of Yakutat. Low interest bonds and loans are also possible sources for additional funding although these too will result in increased utility costs to the consumers.

ELECTROLYZER INSTALLATION PROJECT

Evaluate the feasibility of the use hydrogen fuel cell generators through the installation of an independently powered electrolyzers. \$350,000

Unlike the two alternative energy projects addressed above that addresses alternative energy deliveries by a utility, this project will identify the means by which individual homeowners and business can independently supplement their energy requirements. Electrolyzers will work almost anywhere in Yakutat because most inhabited areas of the

borough have direct and easy access to fresh ground water through shallow sand point wells. Solar or wind powered electrolyzers can use this water resource to produce hydrogen which in turn can be stored and fed into fuel cell generators for use in domestic and commercial power generation. We seek to install such a system in a public building in order to evaluate installation and continuing maintenance costs as well as safety issues. The goal is to identify a system that is safe and affordable to the individual homeowner as a source for heat and electrical power generation. Once the system is defined, the borough will be in position to assist individuals in locating, purchasing and installing necessary equipment.

FUNDING. While the borough is prepared to provide facilities and transportation, no local funds are available. The Denali Commission has alternative energy project funds available for rural areas and we will be submitting this project for the Commission's consideration.

Priority 2 Sewer and Water Facilities

These projects were included in Yakutat's '06 CIP and are presented here with only minor changes. Funding was approved by the Legislature last year but the Administration reasoned that "other funding sources were available" and the appropriation was vetoed. If "other funding sources" are available, we have been unable to identify them. This 750,000.00 request is and was intended as matching funds for \$2,000,000.00 of federal money available through an ANTHC sponsored grant program. We believe the Administration refers to federal grants passed through the State DEC but federal funds such as those from DEC cannot be used as in kind match to other federal funds.

The City and Borough of Yakutat has qualified personnel and equipment and can make significant contributions to the project via those resources.

Upgrade Water/Sewer System \$750,000.00

- a. Master Plan engineering project 200,000.00
- b. West addition upgrade to bring into DEC compliance 50,000.00
- c. Upgrade Sewer System \$500,000.00

Yakutat needs a comprehensive master plan that identifies the location of current utility delivery systems and addresses future infrastructure and expansion requirements. We have a scope of work prepared by HDR Engineering and are ready to go to RFP on such a project as soon as funding is identified. Competitive grant funds are available and Yakutat has the certification necessary to participate in the next grant cycle. The study is estimated to cost \$200,00.00. While the DEC has grant funds available for plan development, competition is intense and matching funds are not available locally.

Parts of the West Addition water delivery system was installed without DEC permitting and without the required stamped, engineering plans. We are required to have an engineer do an "as built" of the installation and submit it for an after-the-fact permit. The as-built is estimated to cost 30,000.00. The permit fee will run a minimum of

\$20,000.00. . Our only realistic source for financing such a project is federal grants or direct legislative funding. The South Addition special assessment district is tied into the non-permitted system and it too will need to be included in the as-built and permitting project.

A SEARHC inspection of our waste water system has identified numerous deficiencies that need immediate attention. All of our lift stations need overhaul, cleaning and extensive repair. One needs to be completely replaced. Numerous routine operational functions need to be strengthened through scheduling, organization, training and equipment purchases. The study estimates costs to be in excess of \$2,000,000.00. The Yakutat Borough needs to find \$500,000.00 in matching funds in order to receive the balance through federal grants. Federal grant monies have been identified and are available should the matching funds be found.

Priority 3 Harbor Facilities

1. Fuel Dock Economic Development Alternatives \$800,000.00

- a. Gravel conveyor
- b. Cruise Ship platform
- c. Fisherman's Market

2. Boat Harbor Upgrades:\$600,000

- a. Restroom and Harbor Office
- b. Boat Weighs and Haul Out
- c. Sewer Lift Station

Fuel Dock Additives: We are unable to finance all the deductive alternatives listed in our EDA fuel dock grant. Steel and transportation costs have escalated over the past two years and eaten into the 3,071,000.00 project cost estimate. The gravel conveyor system and cruise ship platform are vital components of our economic development planning and funding is no longer available for either. Currently, with the dock's relocation, we have the funding to build the dock itself but not to attain the originally envisioned economic benefits. Along with EDA's 80% totaling 2,500,000.00, the Borough has committed roughly 800,000.00 of its own money, and received a Denali Commission grant of 700,000.00. In spite of this, direct legislative and additional federal appropriations are now our only hope for funding the cruise ship platform and the gravel conveyor.

Boat Harbor Improvements: Planning and engineering is complete for all of the above projects. PND Engineering has prepared a plan for expanding the small boat harbor and estimates the cost at 1,500,000. \$365,000.00 remains of money received from the State in exchange for our assumption of harbor ownership. The state money is available but needs to be spent by April of '08 or revert back to the State. Our window of opportunity to utilize those funds as in-kind match is closing and it may need to be spent on "patching" the harbor's deficiencies rather than correcting them. Additional funding is necessary to realize our planning, construction and maintenance goals.

Priority 4 Borough Services Facilities

1. Public Safety building (\$700,000)
2. Courthouse Renovation (\$400,000)
3. Science laboratory (\$450,000)

Yakutat's police and emergency services need a new facility. They are presently housed in a seventy year old quonset. The roof leaks, carbon monoxide from emergency vehicles occasionally poisons personnel offices, and the electrical and heating installations are outdated and inefficient. We have to date, invested \$200,000.00 in foundations and utilities on a piece of property given to us by the State for use as a public safety campus. The Borough needs to find and commit another 700,000.00 to complete the project. Our Public Safety Administration (The Chief of Police) has evaluated grant and loan availability and has concluded that a low interest loan through the USDA is the only option presently available. Construction design is complete. We need only Assembly approval apply for the loan. It is our intention, if possible, to work loan costs into the next budget cycle and begin construction in the Fall of '08. Direct funding through local, State, or federal sources would reduce the amount we need to borrow and move plans closer to realization. Yakutat's participation in the cruise ship tax distribution formula is expected to pay for the EMY/EMS portion of construction.

City Hall is a forty year old, 1400 sq ft. residence. Offices are cramped and there is no space for files or storage. Necessary upgrades of the electrical and water utilities are required but the expense is hard to justify considering the poor condition of the overall structure. The courthouse, while an older building, has a sound foundation and is available for renovation. It has an existing revenue stream from State court system leases and Salmon Board grant sources. With an investment of \$400,000.00 a second floor could be constructed over the existing apartment and the combined square footage would provide ample space for a new city hall. Maintenance and utility cost savings from vacating the existing facility, combined with the aforementioned revenue stream could offset construction costs.

The unique geology, anthropology, weather and marine environment that characterizes the Yakutat Borough continues to be fertile ground for scientific study. Most locally documented studies, while a recognized asset, are conducted absent significant local participation. Borough residents and officials need to become more acquainted and involved in local scientific investigations. Our administrative decisions routinely include consideration of resource extraction activities and geologic anomalies. Accurate historical and anthropological information is essential to efficient economic development. The inclusion of Yakutat's youth in academic investigation carries obvious advantages for their personal development. The Borough Assembly committed \$10,000.00 toward the development of a science laboratory that would provide facilities necessary to consolidate projects and involve local students. A site for the future facility has been identified and has been committed to the project. Planning funds have been requested from federal sources. Several national non profit organizations are working on our behalf to secure

construction funding. Planned site preparation and startup facilities will require about \$450,000.00.

Priority 5 Transportation Projects

1. Street Pavement \$3,000,000.00
 - a. Pave 11.45 miles of Borough Roads:

Paving borough streets is an ongoing collaborative effort between the City and Borough of Yakutat and the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe. The Tribe has direct access to considerable federal highway money and is taking the lead in securing necessary funding. Keeping the program on our priority list assists them and gives us the opportunity to access funds that would supplement their efforts.